

Message Text

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UNCLAS QUITO 5327

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, ENRG, EC
SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT UPDATE: NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH LABORATORY

REF: (A) QUITO 2449; (B) STATE 189026

1. IN REPLY TO REF B, THE ECUADOREAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (EAEC) HAS NOT REPEAT NOT YET CALLED FOR BIDS ON THE \$300,000 SITE DEVELOPMENT STUDY (REF A) FOR ITS NEW NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH LABORATORY.

2. FONAPRE (THE NATIONAL PREINVESTMENT FUND) ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO FINANCE THE STUDY FROM AN INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK LOAN, BUT THE IDB AND FONAPRE COULD NOT REACH AGREEMENT. CURRENTLY FONAPRE AND THE WORLD BANK ARE DISCUSSING POSSIBLE FINANCING, AND A DECISION IS EXPECTED IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. IF THE WORLD BANK DOES AGREE TO LEND THE FUNDS, THE EAEC WILL CALL FOR BIDS IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. A TOTAL STUDY TIME OF THREE TO SIX MONTHS, PREFERABLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IS ENVISAGED BY THE EAEC.

3. PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE EAEC WILL DRAW UP A LIST OF FIVE PRE-QUALIFIED FIRMS FOR THE
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WORLD BANK'S REVIEW AND APPROVAL, AFTER WHICH THE EAEC WILL SELECT THE WINNING FIRM.

4. NEXT MONTH, AN OFFICIAL OF THE EAEC WILL TRAVEL TO SPAIN FOR AT LEAST A SIX-MONTH PERIOD TO WORK ON THE SPECIFICATIONS OF THE NUCLEAR LABORATORY. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE EAEC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT

WITH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO SPANISH EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION FIRMS, OTHER THINGS EQUAL. THE EAEC MADE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT U.S. OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL FIRMS WHICH PRESENT SUPERIOR OFFERS WILL BE VERY MUCH IN THE RUNNING. THE TOTAL COST OF THE LABORATORY IS STILL ESTIMATED AT ABOUT \$11 TO \$12 MILLION, WITH THE ONE-MEGAWATT REACTOR ITSELF ESTIMATED AT ABOUT \$3 MILLION. ONCE THE SPECIFICIFICATIONS FOR THE LABORATORY ARE DRAWN UP, PERHAPS BY FEBRUARY OR MARCH OF 1979, THE EAEC WILL SEEK BIDS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LABORATORY. FINANCING WILL PROBABLY BE SOUGHT FROM THE CONTRACTOR/SUPPLIER.

5. THE U.S. FIRM INTERESTED IN THE SITE STUDY SHOULD CONTACT:
CARLOS MONTUFAR/FAUSTO MUNOZ
COMISION ECUATORIANA DE ENERGIA ATOMICA
P.O. BOX 2517
PALACIO LEGISLATIVE
QUITO, ECUADOR
PHONE: 238-800 (NO TELEX YET)

6. THE EAEC ALSO WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS APPRECIATION TO THE USG FOR THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF RESPONSES BY U.S. FIRMS TO REF A.
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